



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish;  
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## **KALMIA POLIFOLIA** **PALE LAUREL**

Swamp Laurel is an upright shrub with many branches 20-50 cm tall, spreading by layering and short rhizomes. Leaves are mostly 2-4 cm long and less than half as broad, with outer margins that are curled under. Flowers are borne on long stalks in clusters at the ends of branches, with 5 petals joined in a star shape that is 1.2-1.8 cm across and deep pinkish rose. Stamens are about as long as the style, and densely hairy just above the base. The fruiting capsule is almost spherical. Flowering in late May.

Distinguished from the more common *KALMIA MICROPHLLA* by flowers 1.2 cm across or greater, upright growth form, and leaves mostly longer than 2 cm.